

Amendments to the Claims

1. (Original) An isolated and purified nucleic acid molecule comprising the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1.
2. (Original) The nucleic acid molecule of Claim 1 wherein the nucleic acid molecule is RNA.
3. (Original) The nucleic acid molecule of Claim 1 wherein the nucleic acid molecule is DNA.
4. (Original) An expression vector comprising a nucleic acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1.
5. (Original) A recombinant host cell comprising the expression vector of claim 4.
6. (Original) A monkey cathepsin S protein, in substantially pure form comprising an amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2.
7. (Canceled).
8. (Canceled).
9. (Original) A process for expression of monkey cathepsin S protein in a recombinant host cell, comprising:
 - a) transferring the expression vector of Claim 4 into suitable host cells; and
 - b) culturing the host cells of step (a) under conditions which allow expression of the monkey cathepsin S protein from the expression vector.
10. (Currently amended) A method of identifying compounds that modulate monkey cathepsin S protein activity, comprising:

- a) combining a compound suspected of being a modulator of monkey cathepsin S protein activity with monkey cathepsin S protein having an amino acid sequence corresponding to SEQ ID NO: 2; and
 - b) measuring an effect of the compound on protease activity of the monkey Cathepsin S protein.
- 11. *(Currently amended)*. The method of Claim 10, wherein the effect of the modulator on the protein is inhibiting ~~or enhancing~~ cysteine protease activity.
- 12. *(Canceled)*.
- 13. *(Canceled)*.